

## Message Text

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APPROVED BY OES/APT/BM :JCF Y  
OES/APT/BMP:ASCHAPMAN  
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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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TAGS:TECH, BGEN, IS

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DRAFT MINUTES, FIRST MEETING OF  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ISRAEL-U.S. BINATIONAL INDUSTRIAL  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (BIRD)

1. THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG)  
OF THE ISRAEL-UNITED STATES BINATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH  
AND DEVELOPMENT (BIRD) FOUNDATION WAS HELD IN WASHINGTON,  
D.C. ON JULY 25, 1977. BIRD CAME FORMALLY INTO EXISTENCE  
THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS  
ON MAY 18. THE BOG MEETING WAS THE NEXT NECESSARY STEP IN  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLANNED FOUNDATION, THE PURPOSE  
OF WHICH IS THE FOSTERING OF MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS, GENERIC  
NON-MILITARY INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CONDUCTED  
JOINTLY BY PROFIT-SEEKING ENTITIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

2. THE MEETING WAS FORMALLY CALLED TO ORDER BY DR. JORDAN  
J. BARUCH, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY, AT 2:00 P.M. IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,  
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WASHINGTON, D.C. (THE FULL TEXT OF THE DRAFT MEETING  
MINUTES PLUS APPENDICES WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO TEL AVIV  
UNDER COVER OF AN AIRGRAM. APPENDIX 1 TO THE MINUTES  
CONTAINS PAPERS PREPARED FOR THE MEETING, SUCH AS A LIST  
OF PERSONS ATTENDING AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE JOINT WORKING  
GROUP, WHICH HAD LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR THIS FIRST BOARD

MEETING). DR. BARUCH, ACTING AS CHAIRMAN PRIOR TO THE ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, WELCOMED THE PARTICIPANTS. IN HIS OPENING REMARKS, DR. BARUCH STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MEETING AS A MILESTONE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FOUNDATION. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT BIRD IS A PROTOTYPE APPROACH TO ENHANCING COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

3. THE AGENDA WAS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED. MR. MARC ARON AND MR. GEORGE CHADWICK WERE SELECTED AS RAPORTEURS FOR ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES, RESPECTIVELY.

4. CONTINUING ON AGENDA ITEM II, ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS, DR. BARUCH ASKED MRS. MINK TO CHAIR THE MEETING TEMPORARILY AS HE STEPPED DOWN TO NOMINATE MR. YAAKOV, CHIEF SCIENTIST, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED, AND MR. YAAKOV WAS UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED. (APPENDIX 2, BEING SENT BY AIRGRAM, CONTAINS THIS AND SUBSEQUENT SUBSTANTIVE BOARD RESOLUTIONS.)

5. CHAIRMAN YAAKOV ASSUMED DIRECTION OF THE MEETING. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGENDA, HE RECOGNIZED OFFICIAL OBSERVERS.

6. THE MEETING THEN TURNED TO AGENDA ITEM III, THE POST UNCLASSIFIED

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OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. MR. YAAKOV NOTED THE ACTIONS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL IN ITS MAY 2, 1977 MEETING. AT THAT TIME, A LIST OF SEVEN POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR THE POST WAS DEVELOPED. UPON SUBSEQUENT REVIEW, THE COUNCIL BECAME CONVINCED THAT A. WADE BLACKMAN, ONE OF THE LISTED CANDIDATES, WAS SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER QUALIFIED FOR THE POST THAN OTHER INDIVIDUALS UNDER CONSIDERATION. HIS NAME, ACCORDINGLY, WAS SUBMITTED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION. SINCE MR. BLACKMAN'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE POST WAS NOT ASSURED, THE COUNCIL CONTINUED TO REVIEW THE QUALIFICATIONS OF OTHER CANDIDATES. DR. BARUCH AND CHAIRMAN YAAKOV BOTH STRONGLY ENDORSED MR. BLACKMAN AND JOINTLY NOMINATED/SECONDED HIM FOR THE POST. THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED THIS RESOLUTION. DR. BARUCH VOLUNTEERED TO WORK WITH MR. BLACKMAN TO DEVELOP A CONTRACT FOR HIS SERVICES, THIS CONTRACT TO BE REVIEWED BY THE BOARD PRIOR TO ITS ENTRANCE INTO FORCE. DR. BARUCH'S OFFER WAS ACCEPTED BY THE BOARD. AT THIS POINT, MR. BLACKMAN WAS INVITED TO JOIN THE MEETING. HE ARRIVED AND WAS CONGRATULATED BY ALL.

7. CHAIRMAN YAAKOV TURNED TO AGENDA ITEM IV, REPORT ON

PRELIMINARY PLANNING. HE NOTED THAT SEVERAL SUITABLE SITES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED AND THAT ONE, LOCATED IN RAMAT AVIV, APPEARS PARTICULARLY PROMISING. FINAL SITE SELECTION SHALL BE LEFT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SCIENTIST HAS BEEN RECEIVING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PLANNED NEW POSITIONS OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. THERE ARE PRESENTLY 30 CANDIDATES FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE POST, AND SIX FOR THE TECHNICAL POST. THESE CANDIDATES WILL BE SCREENED FURTHER PRIOR TO MR. BLACKMAN'S ARRIVAL AND HIS SELECTION OF ASSISTANTS.

8. AGENDA ITEM V, JOINT WORKING GROUP REPORT. CHAIRMAN  
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YAAKOV PREFACED THE DISCUSSION OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP (JWG) REPORT WITH SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE ROLE OF THE FOUNDATION. HE CONSIDERS THE FOUNDATION TO BE A TOOL TO PROMOTE COOPERATION BETWEEN ISRAELI AND AMERICAN INDUSTRY, AND NOT MERELY AS AN ADDITIONAL SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR RESEARCH. HE NOTED THE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY IN BIRD OPERATIONS AND THE PREREQUISITE FOR CREDIBILITY IN FOUNDATION DEALINGS WITH INDUSTRY. AT THE CHAIRMAN'S REQUEST MR. CHADWICK LED A DISCUSSION ON THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP, (JWG). THE BOG REVIEWED THE RESOLUTIONS IN DETAIL AND ADOPTED MODIFICATIONS TO SEVERAL OF THEM.

9. UNDER AGENDA ITEM VI, OTHER BUSINESS, THE BOG APPROVED SEVERAL PROCEDURAL RESOLUTIONS AND AGREED TO MEET IN ISRAEL IN FEBRUARY 1978. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:00 P.M. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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